

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
@Memorial Library Community Room

JULY 3, 2008
7 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by First Selectman, Janet M. McCarty. Also present were Stephen A. Fontana, Second Selectman, and Michael J. Freda, Third Selectman.

Ms. McCarty made a statement regarding decorum at the Board of Selectmen's meeting and then addressed the following issues which were not on the agenda:

The public comments section of the Board of Selectmen's meeting minutes will include the name, address and a sentence explaining each speaker's question.

The Ethics Review Committee's recommendations for a new Code of Ethics will be the subject of a Special Selectmen's meeting in the fall.

Alan Sturtz, 136 Hartley Street, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, was asked to address questions that have arisen about our recent tax bills. He explained that payments sent to the P.O. Box in Hartford go directly into our account at Webster Bank. This process will be more efficient and will allow the staff in his office to collect taxes and address residents' concerns instead of opening envelopes and making deposits. Residents can still come into the Town Hall to make their payments.

At this time, the Board heard public comments relative to the agenda.

John Lambert, 25 Trumbull Place, Chairman of the Board of Education, endorsed the recommendation of the Republican Town Committee to appoint Wesley O'Brien Jr. to the Board of Education to replace Anthony DeChello.

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the minutes of the Regular Selectmen's Meeting of June 5, 2008.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana addressed the letter sent by Alan Sturtz, explaining that the Town Clerk must be notified when a vacancy occurs on an elected board or commission. The Town Clerk is required to send notices of vacancies in elected offices to the Legislation and Elections Administration Division of the Secretary of the State's Office within five days of the vacancy and again within five days after the vacancy has been filled. Therefore, all board and commission chairmen, should send notices of vacancies on their board or commission, including reason(s), as soon as they occur. The Board of Selectmen, should send notices of official action regarding the appointment of replacement(s) to elected boards and commissions, including the ending date of service--whether the next regular municipal election or expiration of the current term—as soon as possible after confirmation. Also, all replacements must be sworn into office before they can participate in a board or commission meeting.

Ms. McCarty announced the resignation of Anthony DeChello (R), 26 Melissa Drive, from the Board of Education. Mr. Freda and Ms. McCarty thanked Mr. DeChello for all of his work as a member of the Board of Education.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the appointment of Deborah K. Volain (R), 16 Cella Terrace, to the Board of Education, to fill the unexpired term of Anthony DeChello, term to expire 12/01/09.

Mr. Freda explained his endorsement of Wesley O'Brien, Jr., PHD., to fill the vacancy and stated that based on his resume, he is more qualified than Ms. Volain. Mr. Freda questioned why the vacancy would not be filled by the recommendation of the Republican member of the Board of Selectmen since the seat is a Republican seat.

Mr. Fontana explained that, in referencing her resume, Ms. Volain has worked in the school system in a number of capacities for many years. She is the right person who knows the school system on many levels, and it is hard to challenge her experience.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – no

Ms. McCarty announced the resignation of D. Richard Guglielmo (R), 1364 Ridge Road, from the Cemetery Commission.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the appointment of Elizabeth Baptie (R), 2281 Ridge Road, to the Cemetery Commission, term to expire 6/30/10

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the reappointment of Veronica Masi (U), 20 Regency Drive, to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District, Board of Directors, term to expire 6/30/11

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the reappointment of Lynn Fredricksen (R), 95 Pool Road, to the Cemetery Commission, term to expire 6/30/10

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana moved the reappointment of Rita Landino (D), 58 Marion Drive, to the Cemetery Commission, term to expire 6/30/10

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Haven Board of Selectmen:

(1) implores the State of Connecticut to follow North Haven to work diligently in the State Legislature to reduce the cumbersome debilitating electrical rates inflicted upon all of Connecticut's citizens, invest large-scale in the generation of clean renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal, tidal), begin the process of re-regulating the energy industry in Connecticut, and move towards the creation of a state-wide publicly-owned electric utility; and

(2) supports the efforts of “Fight the Hike” and encourages all residents and business concerned about the increasing cost of electricity to collaborate with “Fight the Hike” to produce reasonable utility rates, promote conservation, and produce a rational plan for long term clean, sustainable energy stability in Connecticut through a transparent and publicly accountable process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the North Haven Board of Selectmen that a copy of this resolution duly adopted be sent to the clerk of the general assembly for distribution to the entire state legislature and the governor of Connecticut and to the Secretary of State for distribution to the municipal bodies (mayors, selectmen, town councils, boards of alderman et al.) of the other 168 cities and towns of Connecticut so that each municipality in our state can use this resolution as a model to create its own resolution for solving the energy crisis affecting the cities of Connecticut.

Mr. Fontana urged the approval of this resolution after explaining that the people involved in “Fight the Hike” are smart, dedicated and knowledgeable citizens who are interested in working with the General Assembly to reverse problems with energy usage and work towards a cleaner, sustainable future. He noted that other towns in the area have also been approached to pass this resolution.

Mr. Freda asked if there was any collaboration with this group and the Clean Energy Committee. Ms. McCarty replied that she had recently spoken with Hugh Davis, member of the Clean Energy Task Force and was told they supported “Fight the Hike” issues.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the following Resolution of the North Haven Board of Selectmen authorizing a grant application to the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority for 300 Universal Drive North, North Haven, CT 06473

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen hereby approves and shall submit a Municipal Application to the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority for a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Grant for 300 Universal Drive on behalf of North Haven Commons Development, L.P. subject to the following conditions:

1. That, if required by law, the application so submitted shall also be approved by a resolution of the Town Meeting;
2. That any and all fees, costs and expenses associated with the grant application be borne by the developer;
3. The grant request does not exceed \$3,157,000;
4. That the Town shall pay the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority the lesser of \$237,500 or Fifty Percent (50%) of the real property taxes in excess of the real property taxes for the grand list of October 1, 2007 per year until the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority is reimbursed in full for the grant, but not to exceed 15 years; and
5. That the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority Grant Application is completed to the satisfaction of the First Selectman and the Town Attorney.

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED: That if required by law a Resolution(to be prepared and drafted by the attorney for the Connecticut Brownfields Redevelopment Authority in conformity with this Resolution) shall be added to the agenda of a Town Meeting following the preparation and drafting of such Resolution.

John Parese, Town attorney, explained that approving this resolution would allow the Town of North Haven to apply for the TIF grant for the remediation of what is a contaminated site owned by the Eclipse Development Group. Bonds would be issued that are repaid by the town, and the town will be repaid by the increase in the taxes that are generated from the reclaimed property. He further explained that this is a win situation on three levels: the town gets additional tax dollars which would not have been generated if the site were not developed; the developer gets assistance for cleaning the site; and the state gets a contaminated site cleaned. Mr. Parese also stated that the Board of Selectmen has the authority to call for a town meeting if it were necessary. Ms. McCarty noted that this process has been ongoing since the previous administration. Mr. Gray, from Eclipse Development Group, developers of North Haven Commons, stated that they have been remediating the site for 14 months and have another 6 months to finish. He explained that the grant is not given until the remediation is complete. John Lambert, attorney representing North Haven Commons, noted that everyone was working hard to assure that the process is done correctly.

Mr. Freda expressed his view that the resolution should be passed and taken to a town meeting, if necessary.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

A motion was made by Mr. Fontana to approve the following property tax refunds:

John P. or Ann M. Fenton, 26 Lawncrest Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$34.73

Kodak Polychrome Graphics – Leased, 3414 N. Duke Street, Durham, NC 27704, in the amount of \$21.62

Robert J. Mantovani, 54 Ezra Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$80.65

Anthony Parillo, 1204 Whitney Avenue, U311, Hamden, CT 06514, in the amount of \$64.62

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty announced that the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be on Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

Ms. McCarty announced that there were issues Mr. Freda wished to discuss. Mr. Freda thanked Attorney John Parese for helping address the poor conditions of the baseball field on Bailey Road currently used by the American Legion League. He also explained that he currently is serving on the advisory board for Bozzutos, a company that is negotiating to obtain space in North Haven.

Ms. McCarty noted that a job fair for Quebecor employees was scheduled to take place on July 10th at Quinnipiac University.

The board entertained comments from the public.

Alan Sturtz, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, explained that they are very busy so anyone who calls will get an answering machine message. He asked anyone with a question about their tax bill to leave a message giving their name, address, phone# and brief message and someone will get back to you. He also noted the following:

- 1) If the question concerns a motor vehicle, please include the license plate #
- 2) If the question is about a tax exemption or the amount of the tax, please call the assessor
- 3) All bills were mailed on June 30, so if you have not received a bill, call and you will receive a duplicate
- 4) The account # that you should put on your check is actually the list # on your bill
- 5) Payments must be made by August 1 to avoid a penalty, and if the payment is made after August 1, the penalty period will start from July 1. If you mail your payment by August 1, the postmark will be honored.

Mr. Sturtz stated that 98.2% of the total collectable taxes from the grand list for the 2007-2008 fiscal year were collected, along with 1.8 million dollars in back taxes and interest.

Joan Morgan, 100 State Street #48, stated that she had changed her schedule to attend a Board of Ethics meeting only to find out it had been rescheduled because of the concert on the Green. This information had not been posted.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street #15-4 was recognized, as a member of the Board of Ethics, and explained that she was called and told of the change of time but the board did not hold a meeting due to lack of a quorum. Ms. McCarty noted that there has not been an issue before the Board of Ethics in many years.

Alan Sturtz, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, stated that agendas for board and commission meetings must be posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting and that changes should also be posted so that the public is notified.

Jeff Brangi, 5 Beverly Drive, stated that he did not think the savings in changing medical providers would be realized due to the cost of defending grievances.

Veronica Kivela, 70 Drazen Drive, asked if a quote by Mr. Fontana in the New Haven Register was accurate. He stated that it was.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street #15-4, asked if the Ethics Review Committee's recommendations for a revised Code of Ethics was on the town website and whether there was any response from the public. Ms. McCarty answered that the town website did have the information and that she had only received one e-mail and one letter from the public. She also informed Mrs. Brody that we would not hear whether we will receive the grant for renovations to the senior center until the end of summer.

John Lambert, 25 Trumbull Place, stated that he looked forward to working with Deborah Volain on the Board of Education, but wanted to let it be known that in the 23 years he had been on the board, every recommendation by the Democratic selectman had been honored by the Republican selectmen when a vacancy occurred in a Democratic seat.

Alicia Clapp, 1014 Hartford Turnpike, refuted Mr. Lambert's statement by explaining that her appointment to the Board of Education was delayed because First Selectman Anthony Rescigno objected, but she became a member of the board when the other members, Howard Luppi and Walter Nester voted for her.

Wesley O'Brien Jr., 337 Kings Highway, thanked Mr. Freda for his endorsement and explained he had met with Sara Querfeld, Superintendent of Schools. He stated that volunteering in the schools is different than working in a classroom, and that he had experience writing high school and college curriculum. He hoped he would be given future consideration.

Sherman Katz, 40 Sherwood Drive, asked if the Town of North Haven would have to pay for any of the expenses relating to the repairs of the new fields at the high school. Ms. McCarty stated that some Building Committee money is now being used, and that work was being done by some of the contractors without charge.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. McCarty moved for adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

